

Sample Slab Update #24 – February 2018

The newsletter for sample slab collectors

NGC Gives Away Samples on Instagram

At the January FUN show, NGC gave away 10 samples to their Instagram followers. The only way to earn one of these samples was to make a post with an NGC coin and the hashtag #ngcsample. I was lucky enough to win one of the 10. Showing how much the market values a piece with a known tiny population, one (not mine) sold on eBay for \$97 on January 28.

I don't know if they will have more giveaways, but it could pay to follow @ngccoins on Instagram.



Market Notes

[As discussed in Sample Slab Update #19](#), the number of sample slab sales continues to grow. Does this translate into higher prices? Sometimes it does, such as for scarce dates in common series and for widely desired samples. In other cases, however, increased awareness brings more samples into the market, lowering prices. As collectors outside our niche realize their samples, luncheon slabs, and related items have value, those holders come out of drawers and onto eBay. For example, luncheon slabs are avidly pursued and many continue to bring strong prices (see the example below). Others, however, earn less than expected as enough come onto the market to satisfy the demand.

Some of the noteworthy eBay sales since the December newsletter include:

Early luncheon slabs remain scarce and desirable. This holder with a Silver Eagle from the 2007 FUN luncheon auctioned for \$202.50 on 2/17/18.

Looking at the [first page of sampleslabs.com](#), you will see a Hallmark holder with a photo of a proof Seated dollar. One of these iconic samples auctioned for \$344.49. Who knows when we may see another one for sale.

A rare Compugrade sample (Compugrade-050-1-1) sold quickly as a Buy It Now for \$75 on 12/30/17. Only two Compugrade samples, both of this type, sold on eBay in the



last 4 ½ years in the sales records. Both sold as undervalued Buy It Now, meaning we still do not have an auction price to help establish value. Catalog values for Compugrades are based on private sales of \$200 & \$250.

At the February Long Beach Expo, a dealer offered me a [PCGS Type 1.0](#) for \$2,000. The serial of 1080883 put it as one of the first few hundred coins certified by PCGS. (The first PCGS coin was about 1080265.) This was around \$900 over the value of the enclosed coin, a Proof-65 1937 nickel. When I passed, another dealer bought the coin a few minutes later at the asking price. It later traded hands at the same show for a higher value.



Also at Long Beach, I bought an unlisted True Wealth Alliance PCGS promotional slab with a 1909 France 20 francs (gold weight 0.1867 oz) from [Mike Kittle](#). He had to pay more than the \$290 catalog value listed for the similar PCGS-Sf20-4-1 with a Switzerland gold 20 francs to get the French coin for me from its previous owner. I was happy to pay the premium to add another gold sample to my collection. I also picked up some of Mike's new ANACS promotional slabs labeled "MICHAEL KITTLE RARE COINS / LET'S TRADE / MY SAMPLE FOR YOURS."

New Sample Slab Issuer – NAAC

A previously unknown sample slab issuer, Numismatic Asset Assurance Company (NAAC), appeared on the market this month. A group of eight samples with Sacagawea dollars and Memorial cents debuted on eBay February 13 and sold within two hours for \$7 - \$10 each. This was followed by four assorted coins 2/15 for \$9 - \$12, two US currency samples 2/16 for \$18 and \$11, and five assorted coins 2/17 for \$8 to \$15. Each group sold out within hours. I bought a Liberty nickel out of the 2/17 issue. February 19 saw a further group of assorted samples, with some pedigreed to "LONG BEACH EXPO 2018," a show that ran 2/22 – 2/24. These earned \$12 - \$20. Interestingly, each group of samples used a different type of serial number.



The holder is smaller than most and could be a DCW slab glued shut to make a permanent seal. According to [their website](#), NAAC is based in Evansville, Indiana and was founded in 2007.

Notes from Sample Slab Update Readers



Before starting with emails, let me thank Jeff Shevlin for the gift of one of his ANACS promotional slabs. Known as the So-Called Guy, Jeff is “the man” on so-called dollars.

Jeff Starck writes,

Wanted to share images of two items that were distributed at the Beijing International Coin Show.



That 40mm brass Panda (the second and third photos) rivals the NGC 30th anniversary medal discussed in the last Sample Slab Update. -David

Robert Denaro provided extensive photos and information on samples in multiple emails. Here's a brief excerpt:



I also discovered this PCGS sample slab at a local twice a month coin show that's held on Sunday mornings nearby my house. It is a 2000 Greek five drachma in a sample slab from PCGS. The dealer I bought it from said he found it at the PCGS table at the New York International show held in January last year. He said it was the last one of its type they had. He said they also had the common shield cent Lincoln penny sample slab as well at their table. Interestingly when I went to the cert number verification on PCGS's website, it comes up with a very nice picture of the slab. (I am not sure, but I believe I heard PCGS photographs slabs in this style of pictures if they come out of their Paris/Europe office).

Thank you, Robert, for this and several other photos. The cert verifier is a fertile ground for research. -David

Peter L. writes,

I have a large numismatic book collection and value the ones that I have connections with greatly. I wrote to you directly a few months ago and had an additional question.

I am co-owner of the lincolncentforum.com and I know many of our members enjoy the PCGS samples with Lincolns but am not sure how many are aware of your publication. If ok with you I would like to add a link to your site on ours and create a thread there about it on lincolncentforum.com/forum.

I also sit on the board of CONECA where I am responsible for their website and can add a link there for you on the links page, if you are ok with that too.

Peter, thanks for thinking of me and of samples. Several collectors specialize in samples containing a certain type of coin. In my local coin club, for example, one member collects only dime samples while another seeks out Jefferson nickels and gold. -David

Book News

About 20 copies of the Sample Slabs, second edition book remain. Although I intend to sell all of them, I ended the coin club talks because I don't want to sell out completely. Buy it for \$29 with shipping (\$12 for the PDF download) at SampleSlabBook.com or eBay.

I don't have plans (for now) to make a third edition, but keep accumulating photos, types, and pricing information. For example, the pricing spreadsheet now has data for four and a half years and 6,300 sales. Wow, that was a lot of typing.

Buying and Selling

Buying

I am always buying sample collections or better single slabs for inventory. For my own collection, I am looking for samples from obscure or unlisted grading services, as well as gold coin sample and related slabs. davidschwager@hotmail.com

Selling

Isaiah Hageman writes,

I am looking to sell the NCS sample slab that I have. It's the 1913 T-2 nickel. Also looking to buy R S Yeoman or Ken Bressett signed red books. May be willing to trade, especially for special Red Books.

isaiahh1215@gmail.com



Instead of samples, this issue you can purchase early PCGS, a scarce grading service, and popular special labels.

1. Seldom-seen Hallmark production slab. There is not even one Hallmark holder of any type listed on eBay currently. Contains an accurately graded MS64 1953-S Franklin half dollar. **\$59**



2. NGC Binion Collection holders. NGC encapsulated the coins of Nevada casino owner Ted Binion, who was murdered in 1998 in a [plot to steal his silver hoard](#). A wide variety of dates, mintmarks and labels exist, and collectors attempt to assemble sets of each type.

a. “Binion Collection” 1922 Peace dollar, ungraded. **\$40**

b. Binion Collection 1922 Peace dollar, MS62. **\$45**

c. Binion Uncirculated Type Set #1361 of 2500 1964 half dollar, ungraded. **\$25**

d. Binion Uncirculated Type Set #1361 of 2500 1963-D dime, ungraded. While not expensive, this is the rarest of the four. Also, it has a 1963-D coin with a 1963 label. **\$25**



3. Low serial PCGS rattler. PCGS started their serials with 1080265. Serial 1091201 makes this about coin number 11,000 out of the 38,000,000+ graded to date. MS-65 1945-D half dollar. Lots of rattle in this rattler. **\$130**

4. PCGS Type 2.1 holder. Used only October – December 1989, the [PCGS Type 2.1](#) is like a [Type 2.0 doily](#) but with a solid green label. No “PCGS” on label. MS-63 1923 Peace dollar. **\$59**



The discount for paying by check is still 10%. Email me (davidschwager@hotmail.com) for a mailing address. Or I can send a PayPal invoice for the amount listed above. Free shipping with either payment method.

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